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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

50X1-HUM

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COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT Rumanian Economic Information

DIST. 16 December 1946

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SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN

DISTRIBUTION

STATE	WAR	NAVY	JUSTICE						
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1. Agriculture

This year's harvest has been generally poor. The corn crop has been ruined by drought and the nation will have to import about 200,000 tons of corn if the need for this staple food is to be met. The wheat crop was below average, but sufficient to meet the needs of home consumption. Barley and oats have also done poorly. The fruit and grape crop has been good, but most of this is being exported to the Soviet Union. The oil-seed crop has also been poor and there will not be enough for home consumption. The number of cattle has been greatly reduced because so many animals have been taken to Russia.

2. Fuel

Present fuel production is only about 70 percent of 1943 when it was believed to have been from four and one half to five million tons. Production has been kept at this figure because the Soviets removed much of the oilfield equipment and replacements for worn out equipment have been impossible to get. Bombed refineries have been completely reconstructed.

Oil-producing areas are closed areas to which access is permitted only by special permit. These districts are controlled by Soviet military and civil authorities.

There is a wide-gauge railroad line from the oilfields to the Soviet frontier at Ungheni. The pipeline from the oil wells to Constanza is intact.

The Russians, taking a large proportion of the oil as reparations, supply some fuel directly to Yugoslavia.

3. Textiles

Many of the textile factories are working under contract for the Russians but only on cotton goods. No wool is being supplied by the USSR, and wool-spinning and weaving are practically at a standstill.

4. Coal

Production at the Petrosani mines is average. Local production is not enough for the needs of the country, consequently some coal is being imported from Poland.

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5. Metallurgical industry

This industry works mainly for the Russians who supply the necessary manganese ore.

6. Leather

There is a severe shortage of hides and tanning materials. The industry works chiefly for the Russians although no raw material is received from the USSR.

7. Banking

The Bancara and the Banca Commerciala Romana have been taken over completely by the Soviets. Soviet commissars are working at the Banca Crisseveloni and the Banca de Credit. It is believed there are Soviet agents in other banks as well.

8. International Trade

a) Bulgaria: There is no trade agreement at present between Rumania and Bulgaria. The annual value of trade between these two countries is estimated at about four million Swiss francs. It is carried out principally by the Radu Xenopol firm which exchanges Rumanian fuel, glassware and salt for Bulgarian eggs, tobacco and small skins. Most of the skins are re-exported from Rumania.

b) Yugoslavia: During 1945 trade between Rumania and Yugoslavia was carried out by the Yugoslav State Trading Company, Centroprom, and the private Rumanian concern, Cific, of Bucharest. The value for that year amounted to 10,000 Swiss francs. Rumanian salt, explosives, fuel by-products, firewood and textile waste was exchanged for Yugoslav ferrochrome, magnesium, carbide, lead, copper sulphate, small skins, and raw opium. A trade and clearing agreement between the two countries came into force in December 1945 setting the exchange at one dinar for 200 lei. The price levels under this agreement made trade difficult and in August negotiations were begun again between the Yugoslav State Trading Company and Cific in order to increase trade.

c) Hungary: There is no trade agreement with Hungary and only a small amount of private trade on a compensation basis. Rumanian glass and caustic soda are exchanged for Hungarian light bulbs and corn.

d) USSR: Virtually no Soviet industrial products are being sent to Rumania although a few electric light bulbs of very poor quality are being supplied.

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